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STATE FOR INL, INR/R/MR, NEA/IR

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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [PTER](#) [CI](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ

On March 20, center-left "Diario Siete" (circ. 23,000) ran an editorial entitled, "The U.S. Failure in Iraq." Quote:

"On the three-year anniversary of the invasion in Iraq by the U.S. and its allies, thousands of protesters hit the streets in Rome, Tokyo, New York, Copenhagen, Sydney, Barcelona and other cities to express their rejection against the colonizing war and requesting the withdrawal of the occupying forces... In this case it would be appropriate to say the cure was worse than the disease.... How many Iraqis have died due to the violence in these years?... What was this all for? To prevent (former Iraqi President Saddam) Hussein's regime from using 'weapons of mass destruction' he did not have.... Is it appropriate to talk in this case about crimes against humankind? Undoubtedly, yes.... Will (U.S. President George) Bush have to respond before the international tribunal for everything that has happened in Iraq? Of course, he should. It is hard not to feel indignation when listening to him say we are commemorating 'the third anniversary of the beginning of the liberation in Iraq'.... In the U.S. there has been some talk of an impeachment.... On facts, the United States has already lost the war in Iraq. Like in Vietnam, each day of delaying the withdrawal worsens its interests."

On March 20, business and financial "Diario Financiero" (circ. 20,000) ran a column by international pundit Libardo Buitrago entitled, "Three Years of War in Iraq."

"The Bush Doctrine fulfilled the promise of defeating Saddam but has been unable to give momentum to the goal of building a democracy for the Iraqis' well-being.... Where are the billion dollars generated by the higher oil prices of the past three years? The ordinary people (of Iraq) have not experienced a significant improvement from Saddam's disastrous government to that of the present authorities."

KELLY